



Weekly Drought Brief February 3, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Recent Precipitation: California received a small amount of rain and snow in the last week. Precipitation amounts (in inches) between January 27 and February 2 are as follows:

- Folsom Dam: .40
- Fresno: .63
- Hetch Hetchy Reservoir: 2.42
- Lake Aloha: 4.27
- Modesto: .50
- Oroville: .56
- Redding: .34
- Sacramento: .22
- Shasta Dam: .27

Near-term Outlook for Precipitation: A change in weather pattern may develop over the Pacific Ocean in the coming days that would allow wetter Pacific storms back into California starting Sunday, February 9 and proceeding on-and-off for several days. Forecast confidence remains on the low side, considering that these potential storms are still several days away and could dissipate or shift north into Oregon and Washington.

** Heavy rain and snow would have to fall throughout California every other day from now until May to reach average annual rain and snowfall. Even with such precipitation, California would remain in drought conditions.**

Snow survey: The most recent [snowpack survey](#), conducted on January 30, shows California snow pack at 12% of normal.

Snow water content: [Current update](#) shows 15% of normal.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of February 2 are very low, including: Don Pedro 51%; Exchequer 21%; Folsom Lake 17%; Lake Oroville 36%; Millerton Lake 38%; New Melones 43%; Pine Flat 18%; San Luis 30%; Shasta 36%; and Trinity Lake 48%.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The Department of Public Health has identified several communities with potential drinking water shortages in the coming months. As of January 31, 17 systems have been identified at various stages of risk. The Department of Public Health is working closely with those communities to ensure continued drinking water availability and also is refining its list to focus on water agencies with the most acute needs. Information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Fire Danger: 487 fires have been reported across the state so far in 2014, burning over 1,131 acres. Due to dry conditions, CALFIRE reports that current fire activity is well above the year-to-date figure for 2013 (2 fires burning 301 acres), as well as the annual year-to-date average (84 fires burning 143 acres).

KEY ACTION ITEMS FOR THE WEEK

Federal Government

- **USDA Emergency Designations:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture [has issued Emergency Declarations](#) in 53 California counties, with contiguous designations for a total of 57 counties. Imperial County is the only county not declared by the USDA. A USDA Emergency Declaration initiates the availability of low-interest emergency loans to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties.
- **USSBA Emergency Designations:** Emergency declarations have been established by the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) that cover 57 counties. Imperial County is the only county not declared by U.S.SBA.
- **Federal Agency Support:** Cal OES met with federal agencies on January 30 to discuss potential drought emergency assistance to California state agencies. A matrix is currently being developed to identify all of the federal programs that can provide assistance to California. It was noted that a significant amount of federal assistance is dependent upon the passage of the Farm Bill.

State Government

- **Conservation Campaign:** State government continues to amplify the Governor's call for 20% water use reduction through its [Save our Water](#) campaign. Radio advertising, social media outreach and other forms of public awareness building are underway.
- **Conserving Water in Reservoirs:** The State Water Resources Control Board approved on Friday, January 31 a petition from the California Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation to adjust flows into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from state and federal reservoirs. This action allows for the California State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project to conserve water supplies upstream in reservoirs.
- **State Water Project:** Based on lack of water availability, the Department of Water Resources [dropped its projected allocation](#) amount to customers of the California State Water Project from 5% to 0% to conserve current water supply.
- **Water Curtailments:** The Water Resources Control Board [announced that notices would be issued](#) to certain junior water right holders to curtail their diversions of water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems.
- **Fire Staffing:** [CAL FIRE](#) is maintaining fire season staffing in Southern California and immediately re-staffing seasonal fire fighters in areas of Northern California.
- **Fishing Closures:** The [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) [announced](#) on January 29 the closure of some waters to fishing in order to protect native salmon and steelhead from low water flows in California streams and rivers that have been significantly impacted by drought. The Department also recommended to the [California Fish and Game Commission](#) the immediate adoption of emergency regulations on other rivers at its next meeting, February 5..
- **Cost Data:** Cal OES is working with state agencies and local governments to gather drought-related costs, which is reported weekly to the Drought Task Force.
- **Water Transfers:** The Department of Water Resources has posted [Water Transfer Status](#) fact sheets to their website, developed action plans to expedite the processing of water transfer proposals, and is completing updates to the [California Data Exchange Center](#) to identify statewide storage conditions.

- The California Department of Food and Agriculture created a [one-stop website](#) that provides timely updates on the drought and connects farmers to state and federal programs that they can access during the drought.
- The Governor's Drought Task Force continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** Many local water agencies are implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water use and conservation.
 - **Local Emergency Proclamations** (County, City, Tribal): A total of 11 local emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county or tribal governments, including:
 - **Counties:** Glenn County, Inyo County, Kern County, Madera County, Mendocino County, Santa Barbara County, San Joaquin County
 - **Cities:** Brookside Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits in Mendocino County (2)
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County
- Pending local proclamations include:** Tulare County (February 4), Tuolumne County (February 4) and Placer County Water Agency (February 6).

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)
 State's [Water Conservation Campaign](#), [Save our Water](#)
 California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
 California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)
 California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)
 California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
 California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
 California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)
 California State Water Project, [Information](#)
 USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)
 USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)